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Attorney Docket # 1924

In re Application: Shore, Michele Merrette et al.

Application Number: 10/058,723

Filed: 28 January 2002

Group Art: 1731

Examiner: Fortuna, Jose A.

For:

**PREPARATION OF MODIFIED FLUFF PULP, FLUFF PULP PRODUCTS AND
USE THEREOF**

Enclosed are: Amendment Reply - 10 pages

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PATENT APPLICATION
Attorney Docket No. 1924

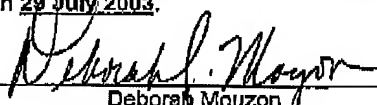
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: SHORE, Michele Merrette *et al.*
SERIAL NO.: 10/058 723 **GROUP ART UNIT:** 1731
FILED: 28 January 2002 **EXAMINER:** FORTUNA, José A.
ENTITLED: PREPARATION OF MODIFIED FLUFF PULP, FLUFF PULP
PRODUCTS AND USE THEREOF

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Deborah Mouzon

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REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Dear Sir:

This Reply is in response to the Advisory Action dated 6 June 2003. In reply to that outstanding Action, Applicants submit the following Remarks –

AMENDMENTSIn the Claims:

1. (Previously amended) A method of preparing modified fluffed pulp, the method comprising the steps of:

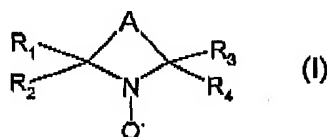
oxidizing cellulose pulp in a suitable medium with an oxidant in the presence of a nitroxide radical mediator; and

fluffing the treated cellulose pulp, the treated cellulose pulp having from about 1 to about 50 mmole of aldehyde functionality per 100 grams of cellulose pulp;

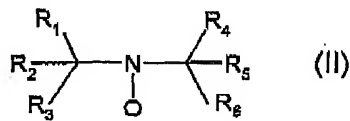
wherein the modified fluff pulp has an increase in wicking rate and wicking capacity compared to an unmodified fluff pulp.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the nitroxyl radical mediator is a di-tertiary alkyl nitroxyl radical having a formula of



or



wherein A is a chain having two or three atoms; each atom is selected from the group consisting of carbon, nitrogen and oxygen; and the R₁-R₆ groups represent the same or different alkyl groups.